



DM CAMP & SONS

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March 23, 2006

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Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch
Fruit & Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240
Washington, D.C. 20250-0240

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: United States Standards for Grades of Table Grapes
(European or Vinifera Type)
Docket #FV-06-304

My company is a grower, packer and shipper of fresh table grapes and I am writing this letter in support of the proposal that was printed in the Federal Register on January 24, 2006 pertaining to modifying the grade standard for shattered grape berries in the United States Standards for Grades of Table Grapes.

After numerous industry meetings with government officials as well as representatives from the California Grape & Tree Fruit League and Western Growers Association, industry came to a consensus that the tolerance for shattered berries in table grapes needed to be modified. The driving force behind this consensus was the fact that grapes are now packed and shipped in consumer packages such as clamshells and bags which result in significantly less shrinkage and a more sellable product to consumers. Creating an additional tolerance for shattered berries at destination markets allows the standard to evolve with industry practices. It is because of these reasons that I strongly support the proposed amendment and respectfully request that Agriculture Marketing Services adopt this change as soon as possible so that the tolerance can be utilized for this year's table grape season.

Sincerely,

Edwin A. Camp, President
D. M. Camp and Sons

c: Thomas R. Oliveri, Western Growers Assn.

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